

### Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention is directed to certain oxidized forms of retinoic acid and their precursors that have been found to be effective in treating conditions that respond to agents that bind to and activate the human peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma. Specific compounds include oxidized all-trans retinoic acid; oxidized 9-cis retinoic acid; and reduced 4-oxo-retinoic acid. The compounds may be used in treating a number of diseases or conditions including diabetes, low body weight, atherosclerosis, and certain forms of cancer.